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PROGRAM Meet the Press

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SUBJECT George Shultz Interviewed

MARVIN KALB: On strategic weapons, a major policy shift by the United States. President Reagan scraps the constraints of the unratified SALT II treaty on the even of the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting that produces still one more rift in the Atlantic alliance; and questions about the precarious state of U.S.-Soviet relations, with the dwindling chance for another summit at the top of the list. Questions for our guest today, the Secretary of State, George Shultz, who has just returned from that contentious NATO meeting in Canada to confront, as well, the dangerous problems of Central America and the Middle East.

Meet the Press, Sunday, June 1st, 1986.

Hello, and welcome once again. I am Marvin Kalb.

It is just a little over six months since President Reagan met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva. They agreed to meet again this year in the United States and next year in the Soviet Union. Expectations for an overall improvement in relations were high. Now they are again seen as low.

What has happened that explains this change? We'll try to get some of the answers during the course of this program.

And joining me for our interview with the Secretary of State today, John Wallach, the Foreign Editor of the Hearst newspapers; and Strobe Talbott, the Washington bureau chief for Time magazine.

Mr. Secretary, let's begin. The expectations were high. We were at Geneva with you. They're now low. What accounts for the change?

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East practicall continuously. And I don't intend to let up on work on that, because if there's something constructive, if you can just move the ball along an inch, why, I think it's worthwhile.

King Hussein will be here a week from tomorrow. We'll have a chance to meet with him. And we're continuously appraising the situation.

TALBOTT: People in our line of work, journalists, have been having a bit of a dust-up in the last few weeks with people in your line of work -- that is, officials charged with keeping the secrets of the United States Government. I know this has been a concern to you. You have fired at least one member of the State Department for leaking.

The Director of Central Intelligence and others have talked about sending journalists to jail if they publish information which the Administration considers to be classified. What's your own view on the use of legal sanctions and the threat of jail against publications and journalists in this ongoing struggle?

SECRETARY SHULTZ: I'm not going to pose here as a lawyer. But I think the law, whatever the law is, ought to be enforced, including when somebody in the United States Government puts out information that is classified and sensitive. That person is violating the oath of office that you solemnly take, and should be fired, at a minimum. And anytime I can get my hands on people who do this, let me tell you, if I have anything to do with it, they're going to be fired.

Excuse me, Mr. Talbott. I interrupted you. What did you say?

TALBOTT: What about the journalist and the publisher who received the information and published it?

SECRETARY SHULTZ: As I say, I don't want to pose as a lawyer, to know what the legal situation is. But if they violate a law, a legitimate, constitutional, proper law, they ought to be prosecuted. If they haven't, they shouldn't.

KALB: And at this particular point, Mr. Secretary, what does it look like to you?

SECRETARY SHULTZ: Well, I think they can be properly talked to, and journalists are talked to regularly. And I think there is a tradition of responsibility in the journalistic community and it still exists, and it should be encouraged.

Nobody wants to undermine national security. Nobody

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does.

KALB: On that note, sir, our time is up.

Thanks very much for being our guest. We hope to have
you back real soon.